Ministry of Culture has constituted a committee for drafting a legislative frame work for setting up the Commission.

(c) There are 3664 monuments/sites which have been declared as of natioal importance under the jurisdication of Archaeological Survey of India.

(d) None of the centrally protected monument has been destroyed.

(e) It is proposed that the Commission would:

tender advice to the Government on heritage matters.

frame guidelines in the matter of conservation of heritage monuments and sites.

can study or cause to study in important matters regarding conservation of heritage and submit reports to the government.

suggest appropriate amendments to the existing heritage legislations.

The commission is likely to be set up after the drafting and enactment of an appropriate legislation, for which work is on.

Submersion of land in Andaman Nicobar Islands

2733. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is initiating a joint study with Departments of Science and Technology and Ocean Development on the Tsunami and its effect of submersion of lands in Andaman Nicobar Islands to find out the existence of extended Tamil Nadu touching Jawa and Sumatra having Tamil culture and submersion of land in Ocean due to four Tsunami in thousands of years ago; and

(b) if not, whether Government would take up such study to bring cultural richness of the Indian continent?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Anthropological Survey of India has initiated study on Cultural reconstruction in Car- Nicobar Islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Regarding the existence of/extended Tamil Nadu touching Jawa

and Sumatra having Tamil Culture, the Anthropological Survey of India has initiated studies based on DNA Polymorphisms which will throw light on the ancient migration.

The Anthropological Survey of India will also be holding an International Conference on "Identity, Cultural Pluralism and Syncretism" at New Delhi from 27th February to 1st March, 2006 with a view to highlighting the cultural richness of South Asian Countries.

Construction of new museums

2734. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided assistance to the State Governments for construction of new museums under the Centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, the funds provided to Gujarat during the last three years; and

(c) the number of schemes for which these funds were provided alongwith the details of the progress of the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) During the year 2003-04 an amount of Rs. 499.00 lakhs was provided to the State Govt. of Nagaland for setting up of 2nd World War Museum in Kohima under the North-East Pool Fund of the Ministry, as partial assistance.

(b) No funds have been provided to Gujarat during the last three years for construction of new museums.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of world famous sites

2735. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision for development of the world famous sites in the country;